

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are all the claims presently being examined in the application. The claims have been amended in a manner believed fully responsive to the points raised by the Examiner, thereby to pass all of the claims to allowance. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-2, 5, 8, 10, 14-15, 18, 20 and 22-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Onishi et al. (Japanese Patent No. 2003-042894). Claims 3-4, 7, 11-13, 16-17 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onishi et al. Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onishi et al., in view of Jasapara et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0227952). Claims 9 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onishi et al., in view of Ingles et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,937,925).

It is noted that any claim amendments herein are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims, or for any statutory requirements of patentability.

Further, it is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

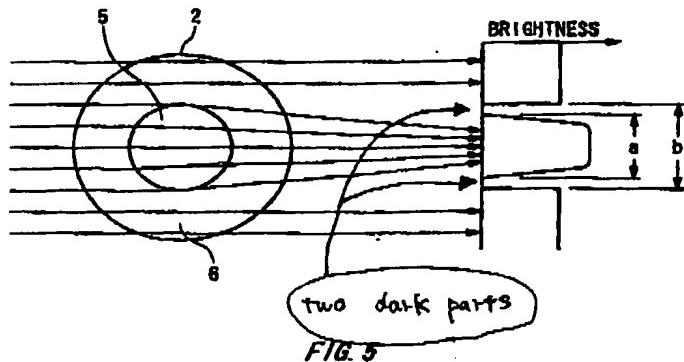
The prior art rejection is respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Onishi et al. (Japanese Patent No. 2003-042894)

Onishi et al., discloses measuring a width of a bright space of light intensity distribution to obtain a relative value for a core diameter, and obtaining a non circularity of a

core part form the relative value. However, as seen from the annotated FIG. 5 below of the present application, it is difficult to correctly determine a boundary between the bright space and the dark space.



The present invention aims to overcome such a deficiency. Specifically, the width of a dark space (not a bright space) is measured so as to obtain a relative value for a core diameter.

Applicant has amended the language of Claims 1 and 14 to further clarify this feature.

Due to the revised feature "measuring a width between two change points, at which two bright spaces corresponding to the clad part are changed to a dark space and which correspond to two boundaries between the clad part and the core part", the present invention can determine the non circularity of a core part more correctly than Onishi, et al.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

Figures 1-2 have been labeled as "Prior Art" to overcome the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner objects to the Abstract. Applicant has amended the abstract to be fewer words.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-23, all the claims presently

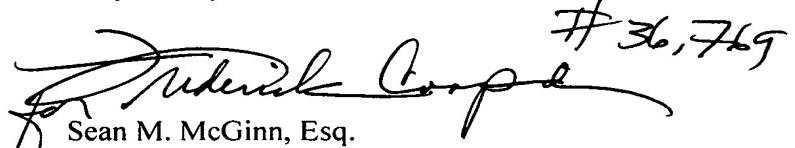
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Docket No.: SH-0075PCTUS
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being examined in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or to credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,



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Prior Art

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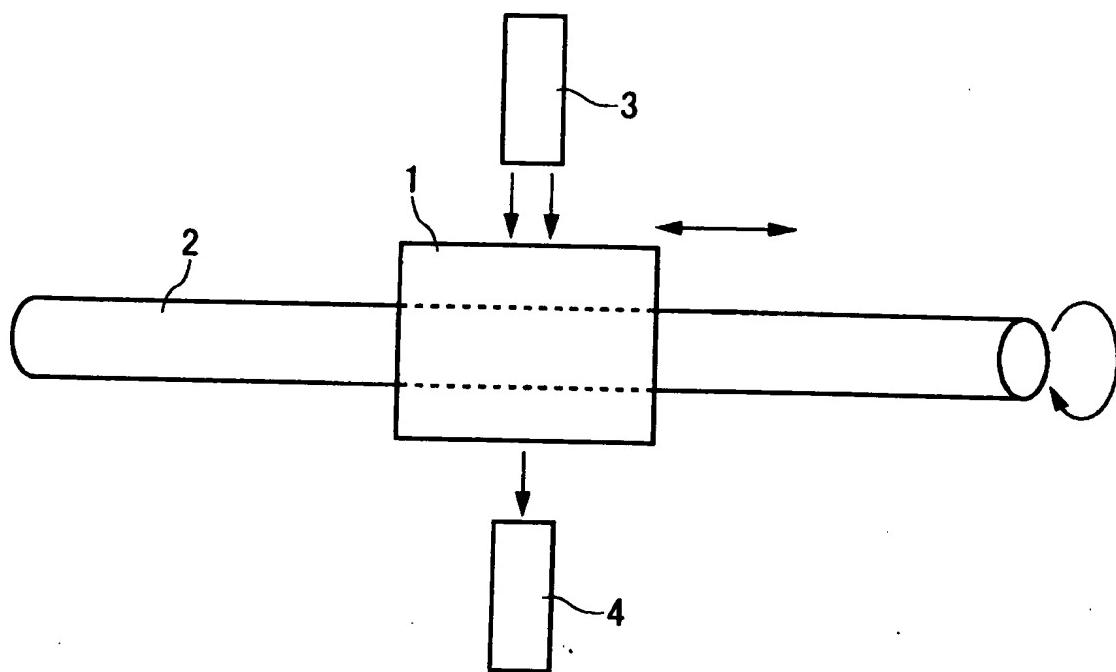


FIG. 1

Prior Art

2

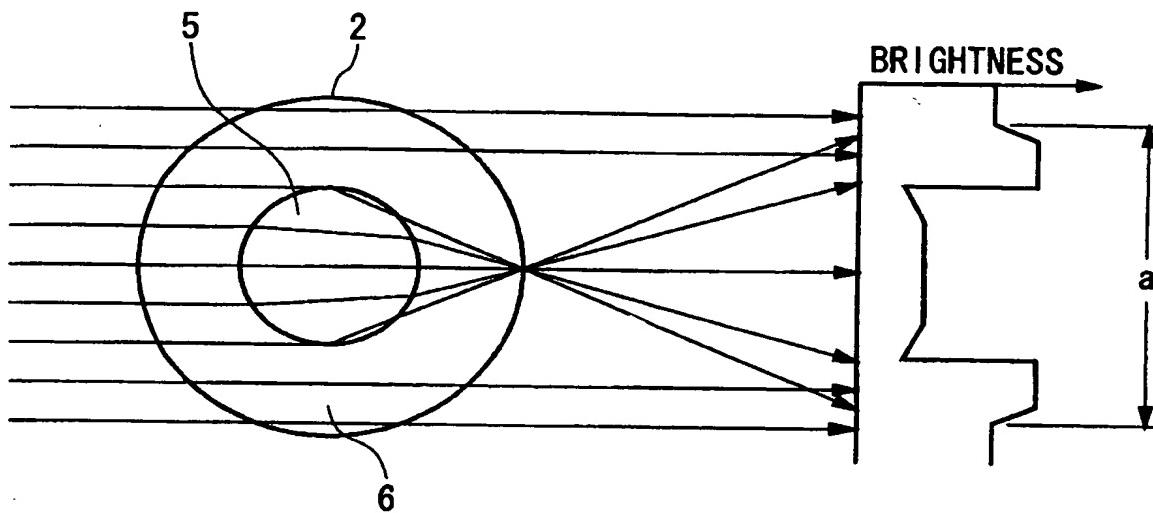


FIG. 2

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-2. These sheets which include/ Figures 1-2 replace the original sheets which include Figures 1-2. The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-2 to label it as “PRIOR ART”.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes